

Message Text

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SUBJ: ASAT NEGOTIATIONS: WARNKE STATEMENT OF JUNE 8, 1978

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMB. WARNKE
AT FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF ASAT TALKS ON JUNE 8, 1978:

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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR WARNKE
JUNE 8, 1978

MR. AMBASSADOR, IT IS A PLEASURE TO GREET YOU AND THE
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION AND TO INITIATE WITH
YOU THIS FIRST ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING LIMITATIONS
ON ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS.

I PARTICULARLY WELCOME YOUR PRESENCE HERE, AMBASSADOR KHLESTOV, AS HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION. YOUR EXPERIENCE AND ABILITIES AS A DISTINGUISHED SOVIET DIPLOMAT ARE WELL KNOWN TO US FROM OTHER NEGOTIATING FORUMS OVER THE YEARS. WE NOTE THAT, MOST RECENTLY, YOU HEADED THE SOVIET DELEGATION DURING THE USEFUL BEGINNING OF THE TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS IN DECEMBER 1977.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESENT DISCUSSION OF ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS MUST BE EVIDENT TO BOTH OF US. IN OUR VIEW, A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON WAYS TO PREVENT AN ARMS RACE IN SPACE.

THE DESIRABILITY OF PREVENTING SUCH AN ARMS RACE IS THE GENERAL REASON FOR PROPOSING THESE TALKS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE U.S. SIDE APPROACHES THE PRESENT SESSION IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND SERIOUS VEIN AS THE BEGINNING OF A VERY IMPORTANT TASK.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE THE WORLD'S LEADING SPACE POWERS, AND BOTH HAVE A DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE. EACH OF US HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT AND RESOURCES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE-FLIGHT CAPABILITIES AND SYSTEMS. OUR COUNTRIES HAVE LED THE WAY IN THE EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE AND CELESTIAL BODIES, AND BOTH ARE CONTINUING ACTIVE PROGRAMS OF SPACE EXPLORATION, SPACE SCIENCE, AND APPLICATIONS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE WORKED TOGETHER IN SEVERAL COOPERATIVE SPACE PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE
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APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST PROJECT IN 1975. OUR TWO NATIONS RENEWED OUR AGREEMENT ON SPACE COOPERATION LAST YEAR, AND EXPERTS FROM OUR GOVERNMENTS MEET PERIODICALLY TO DISCUSS ONGOING PROJECTS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE JOINT ENDEAVORS.

EACH OF OUR NATIONS MAKES EXTENSIVE USE OF OUTER SPACE FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF PURPOSES OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO OUR PEOPLES AND TO MANKIND. WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, DEVELOPED SATELLITES WHICH FACILITATE COMMUNICATION, NAVIGATION, AND METEOROLOGY. WE HAVE TESTED SATELLITES FOR THE REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH, WHICH CAN ASSIST MANY USEFUL ACTIVITIES. THE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES OF SATELLITES MAKE IT ATTRACTIVE TO MAKE EVEN GREATER USE OF SPACE IN THE FUTURE FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF PURPOSES.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION BOTH MAKE USE OF SATELLITES FOR IMPORTANT NATIONAL SECURITY PURPOSES, INCLUDING THE ENHANCEMENT OF STRATEGIC STABILITY. EACH NATION HAS ITS OWN SATELLITES FOR FUNCTIONS SUCH AS COMMUNICATION AND EARLY WARNING OF ATTACK. IN ADDITION, THE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON, IMPROVED UNDER THE AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1971, NOW PASSES THROUGH U.S. AND SOVIET SATELLITES.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION USE SATELLITES AS PART OF THEIR NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION OF

COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS. THESE SYSTEMS ARE, OF COURSE, ESSENTIAL FOR VERIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF EXISTING AND POSSIBLE FUTURE AGREEMENTS.

THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO USE SATELLITES FOR DESIRABLE, PEACEFUL PURPOSES. SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF IMAGINATIVE PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE SPACE SYSTEMS WHICH COULD LEAD TO EXPANDED ACTIVITY IN SPACE.

FROM THIS VERY BRIEF SUMMARY WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT SATELLITES ARE NOW OF ACKNOWLEDGED IMPORTANCE FOR THE EXPANSION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO PEOPLE ON EARTH, AND FOR NATIONAL SECURITY PURPOSES INCLUDING THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF STRATEGIC STABILITY AND THE FACILITATION OF ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS. THEY HAVE BECOME AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF ASSISTING EACH OF OUR NATIONS IN STRENGTHEN-
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ING ITS SECURITY AND WELL-BEING.

GIVEN THESE CONSIDERATIONS, IT SEEMS DESIRABLE TO ENSURE THAT SATELLITES ARE FREE FROM ANY THREAT OF ATTACK. IN THE VIEW OF THE U.S., NEITHER OF OUR COUNTRIES WISHES TO BE PLACED IN A SITUATION IN WHICH IT BELIEVES ITS SATELLITES TO BE IN DANGER OF DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION BY THE OTHER.

WE BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD ALSO WISH TO PREVENT SUCH A SITUATION FROM ARISING AND THAT THE CONCERNS WHICH WE EXPRESS ARE MUTUAL ONES. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD CONSTRAIN THREATS TO SATELLITES.

WE WOULD ALSO PREFER TO AVOID A COMPETITION IN SPACE WEAPONS, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF EITHER SIDE.

THE TALKS WHICH WE ARE BEGINNING TODAY REPRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL WAYS TO AVOID PROBLEMS WHICH COULD ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS.

THE U.S. SIDE SEEKS A FULL AND FRANK EXAMINATION OF ALL TOPICS OF INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. MY GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE THE MOST CAREFUL ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION TO ALL VIEWS AND IDEAS EXPRESSED BY YOU DURING THESE DISCUSSION HERE IN HELSINKI.

IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD LIKE TO STATE OUR BELIEF THAT THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD LIMIT ANTI-SATELLITE CAPABILITIES AND THE USE OF ANTI-SATELLITE DEVICES. I HOPE THAT WE CAN MAKE FULL USE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE IN A FASHION WHICH PRECLUDES ANY SIGNIFICANT ASYMMETRY IN ANTI-SATELLITE CAPABILITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOUR VIEWS ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECT. RIDGWAY. UNQUOTE VANCE

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